

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for organizing and processing electronic information comprising the steps of:

organizing the electronic information as a plurality of thoughts;

defining a matrix of the plurality of thoughts and further including a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein each thought may be related to at least one of the other thoughts, and at least one of the thoughts is directly related to one of the other thoughts;

selecting a first thought from the plurality of thoughts to be a central thought;

displaying an indicium of the central thought and at least one of the related thoughts;

selecting a second related thought that is related to ~~of~~ the central thought to be a new central thought; and

displaying an indicium of the new central thought and at least one related thought,

wherein each of the indicia comprise a graphical icon that may be activated by a user.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the current central thought is associated with information, the method further comprising the step of viewing, editing or processing the electronic information.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein one or more thoughts related to both the first and second thoughts are also displayed.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the direct relationships between a plurality of thoughts are graphically represented on the display.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein indicia of the thoughts on the display

are rearranged upon the selection of a new central thought in a manner that graphically reflects the relationship between the thoughts and the new central thought.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one thought is a parent of another thought, and wherein at least one thought is a sibling of another thought, and wherein indicia of each of the thoughts and indicia of the parent and sibling relationships between the thoughts are graphically represented on the display.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step, subsequent of loading the contents of said central thought.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the loading step is performed automatically.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein said loading step is delayed for a period of time.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein the period of time is long enough to permit navigating to another thought before the contents of the central thought are loaded.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the user is appraised by a visual display of the extent to which the period of time has elapsed.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a file that contains the full location of a device on which the network is initially defined, that file configured so that the thought documents organized by the network are accessible from a remote device having access to the information organized by the network.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:
identifying at least one thought document that does not reside in the memory or storage of a local device;
loading selected ones of the identified thought documents to a local device;
changing the recorded location of the loaded thought documents to reflect the new local location of the documents.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the thoughts are of a plurality of thought types.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of defining further comprises the step of setting sharing characteristics of at least one thought.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said network relationships may be forgotten.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 17 wherein said network relationships may be forgotten automatically in accordance with particular usage statistics.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 17, wherein memory of the network

relationships is of more than one type, and wherein the user may selectively display the relationships remembered by one or more of those memory types.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of defining comprises adding at least one thought to the network by dragging with a pointing device from or to a thought in a plex to or from a window associated with the thought document.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one thought contains more than one version of a single document and wherein a user may select from among these multiple versions of the document.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the indicia are highlighted in a manner indicating to the user which thought will be designated should the user select the indicium over which a pointer indicium responsive to a user input means presently resides.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 1 in which a Train of Thought is highlighted or otherwise made visible or differentiated from the other graphical elements comprising the graphical representation of a matrix.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein arrows or other indicia are used to indicate the order of the Train of Thought.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the matrix references another matrix.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein an administrator may independently assign access privileges to each of the matrices.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein a user can divide a single matrix into one or more individual matrices.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein multiple users can simultaneously access a single matrix.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 27 further comprising a method for preventing the creation of conflicting versions of a single thought document.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the display of the thought indicia is based upon particular usage statistics.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 30 wherein the thought indicia are graphically differentiated to reflect temporally-based usage statistics.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of defining further comprises the step of generating a matrix based upon a hierarchical file management structure.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 32, wherein the generated matrix may subsequently be modified to incorporate nonhierarchical associations among thoughts.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of defining further

comprises the step of generating a matrix based upon a preexisting self-referencing network.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein the generated matrix may subsequently be modified to incorporate nonhierarchical associations among thoughts.

Claim 36 (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein the self-referencing network comprises the Internet.

Claim 37 (Original): The method of claim 34, wherein said self-referencing network comprises a hypertext document.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of defining is, in whole or in part, performed in response to a user's serial selection of files or Internet browsing.

Claim 39 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of defining is, in whole or in part, performed based upon the results of a database search.

Claim 40 (Original): The method of claim 39 wherein said database represents an index of content on the Internet.

Claim 41 (Original): The method of claim 34 wherein the step of generating is performed in accordance with a web crawling technique and in which the self-referencing network comprises at least one site on the World Wide Web.

Claim 42 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least one file having information

associated with a thought resides remotely on a server or other remote device, and wherein the user accesses the matrix from a client or other local device.

Claim 43 (Original): The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

based upon the current thought and the defined matrix relationships, identifying all thoughts that could possibly be selected as a new central thought from a current plex, and all thoughts that would join the new central thought in the resulting new plex upon the selection of any one of the thoughts;

identifying the thoughts for which the desired information is presently stored at the local device; and

sending from the remote device only that data associated with each thought that could join the plex upon the selection of a new central thought that is not already stored at the local device.

Claim 44 (Original): The method of claim 43, wherein the results of at least one of the steps of identifying are stored in a ThoughtList.

Claim 45 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein files that store information relating to the matrix are embedded into hypertext and are accessible from hypertext.

Claim 46 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein files that store information relating to said matrix comprise both internal and external files.

Claim 47 (Original): The method of claim 46, wherein a user can selectively convert internal files to external files, and can selectively convert external files to internal files.

Claim 48 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein files containing the loaded information are saved automatically without user interaction upon the deactivation of their associated thought.

Claim 49 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of maintaining a list of parentless thoughts so that it is unnecessary to ensure that each thought has a relationship with at least one other thought.

Claim 50 (Original): The method of claim 17 wherein all thoughts childward of a first forgotten thought and not having parent relations to any thought other than a forgotten thought are themselves forgotten.

Claim 51 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of enabling the entry of notes relating to at least one thought, wherein the notes are loaded and saved upon the activation and deactivation of the thought to which the notes correspond.

Claim 52 (Original): The method of claim 51 wherein the notes are entered by a word processor that links at least one OLE or similar object.

Claim 53 (Original): A method for organizing and processing electronic information comprising the steps of:

organizing a plurality of thoughts;

defining a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein at least one of the thoughts is related to

one of the other thoughts;

displaying a graphical representation of the matrix, the graphical representation comprising a plurality of display icons corresponding to the thoughts, and further comprising a plurality of connecting lines corresponding to the relationships among the thoughts;

receiving a communication from an application program;

identifying at least one command within the communication, the command a request to make a particular thought the current thought; and

loading, viewing, editing or processing information associated with the current thought.

Claim 54 (Original): An apparatus for organizing and processing information using a computer, said information comprising a plurality of thoughts and said apparatus comprising:

input means for defining a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein each thought may be related to at least one other of said thoughts, and wherein at least one of said thoughts is directly related to one of the other thoughts;

display means for displaying an indicium of a first thought as a central thought and for displaying an indicium of a second thought, said second thought having a direct relation to said first thought; and

means for enabling selection of said second thought to be a new central thought, whereby indicia of those thoughts having defined relations with said second thought will be displayed on said display.

Claim 55 (Original): A computer program product for organizing and processing information using a computer, said information comprising a plurality of thoughts and said product comprising:

a computer-usable medium having computer-readable code embodied therein, said computer-readable code comprising:

a matrix definition module which is configured so that a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts can be defined, wherein each thought may be related to at least one other of said thoughts, and wherein at least one of said thoughts is directly related to one of the other thoughts;

a first display module which is configured to display an indicium of a first thought as a central thought on the display;

a second display module which is configured to display an indicium of a second thought on said display, said second thought having a direct relation to said first thought; and

a selection module which is configured to enable selection of said second thought to be a new central thought, whereby indicia of those thoughts having defined relations with said second thought will be displayed on said display.

Claim 56 (Original): A system for organizing and processing information using a computer, said information comprising a plurality of thoughts, and said system comprising:

input means for defining a matrix comprising the plurality of thoughts and further comprising a plurality of network relationships among the thoughts, wherein each thought may be related to at least one other of said thoughts, and wherein at least one of said thoughts is directly related to one of the other thoughts;

a display for displaying an indicium of a first thought as a central thought on the display; and

a display for displaying an indicium of a second thought on said display, said second thought having a direct relation to said first thought, wherein a user can select said second thought to be a new central thought, whereby indicia of those thoughts having defined relations

with said second thought will be displayed on said display.

Claims 57-66 (Canceled)